

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

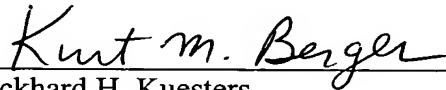
Claim 1 is currently pending. Claims 2-18 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

The present application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 10/145,122, filed on May 15, 2002.

Consequently, an early and favorable examination of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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